EAD revision update, Open session

Join the TS-EAS EAD subteam on 26 July 2023, 3.30pm UTC
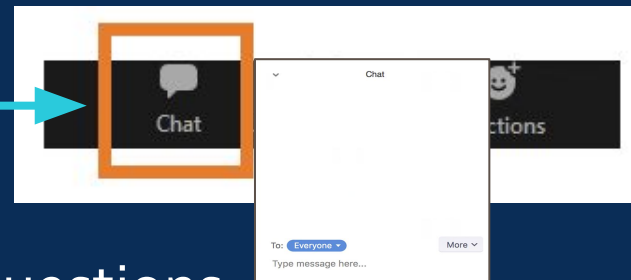
Call-in numbers: https://zoom.us/zoomconference
Meeting ID: 881 0845 0349

All lines are **muted**

Use **chat** for questions

Raise your hand to request to unmute

Participants (5)

Chat

Chat

To: Everyone ▾   More ∨

Type message here...

Raise Hand

Chat   Live Transcript   Reactions
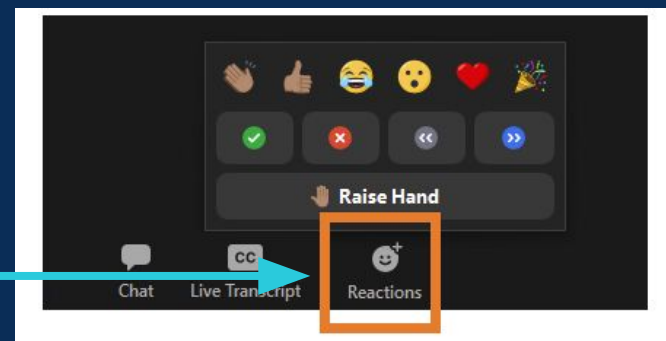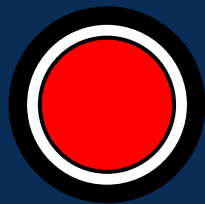
This webinar is being recorded and will be available on YouTube:

ARCHIVES '23
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23

EAD revision update, Open session

Speakers:
Kerstin Arnold, Archives Portal Europe Foundation, Member of TS-EAS / EAD sub-team lead
Florence Clavaud, Archives nationales de France, Executive member of ICA/EGAD
Silke Jagodzinski, Geheimes Staatsarchiv Preußischer Kulturbesitz, Executive member of ICA/EGAD

Agenda

- Introduction
  - Background, timeline and general aspects of the major revision
- EAD's relation with other standards; here: Records in Contexts
- Other topics on the agenda of the EAD subteam
  - Alignment with EAC-CPF
  - The multiverse - links, references and relations
  - Different flavours of EAD

Introduction

TS-EAS

- Technical Subcommittee on Encoded Archival Standards at the Society of American Archivists (SAA)
- Background and work covered in this presentation:

We take care of the formats you use to manage and share archival information

We need your comments, suggestions and bug reports

Your input drives our work forward

Find out more and get in contact

TS EAS
https://www2.archivists.org/groups/
technical-subcommittee-on-encoded-
archival-standards-ts-eas

Reporting an issue via SAA
https://www2.archivists.org/standards/
TS-EAS-report-an-issue

TS EAS on GitHub → Reporting an issue
https://github.com/SAA-SDT

EAD publication
http://www.loc.gov/ead/index.html

Our mailing list
EAD@LISTSERV.LOC.GOV

EAC publication
https://eac.staatsbibliothek-berlin.de/

How TS-EAS works

Membership and teams

Membership

50/50 SAA members and international members

International includes mostly Europe, but also South America, Africa, Asia, and Oceania

Teams

Teams for EAD, EAC-CPF, Functions

Schema team
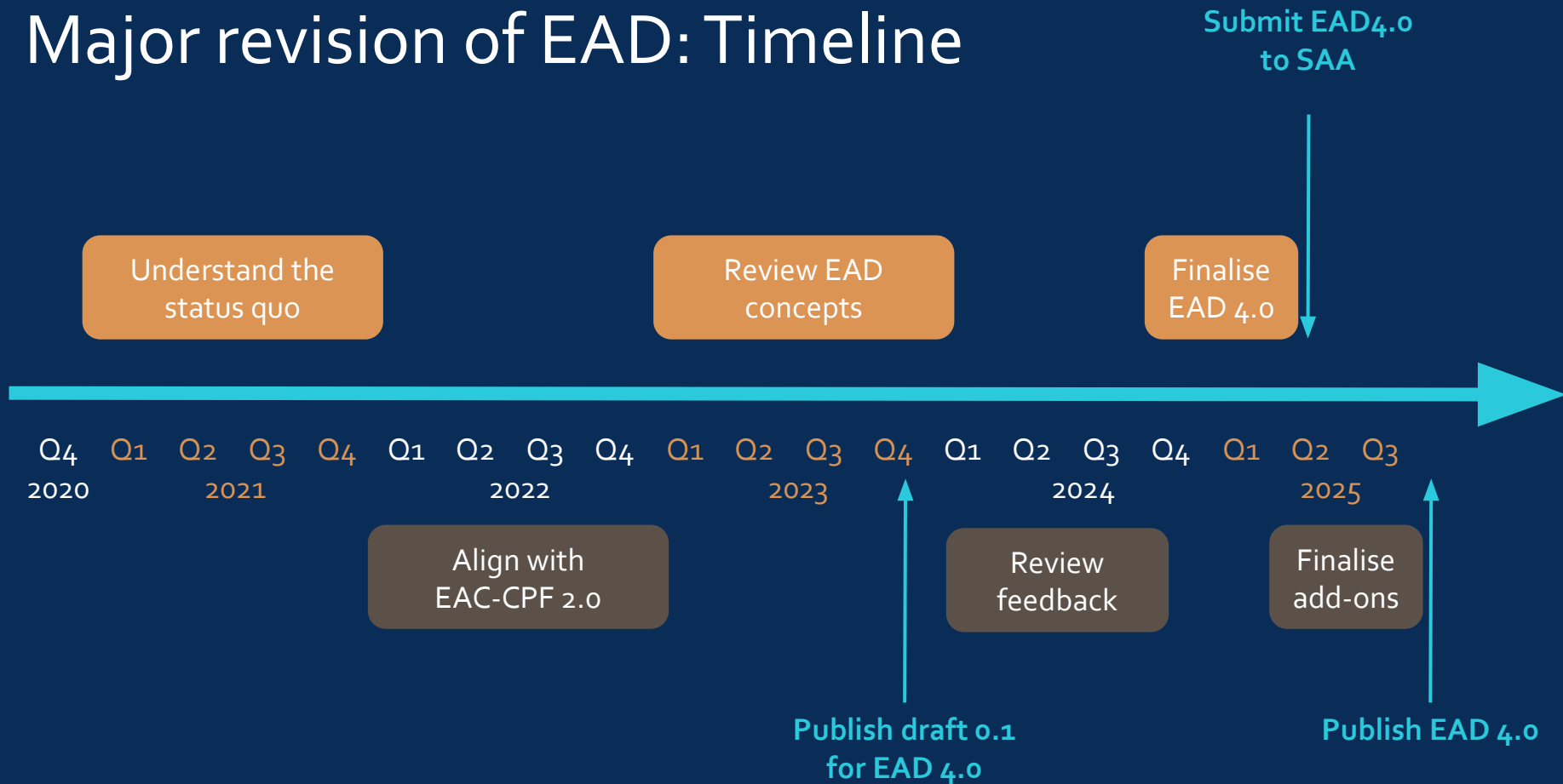
Outreach team

Standards revision

Minor and major

Annual rolling revision cycle for minor releases
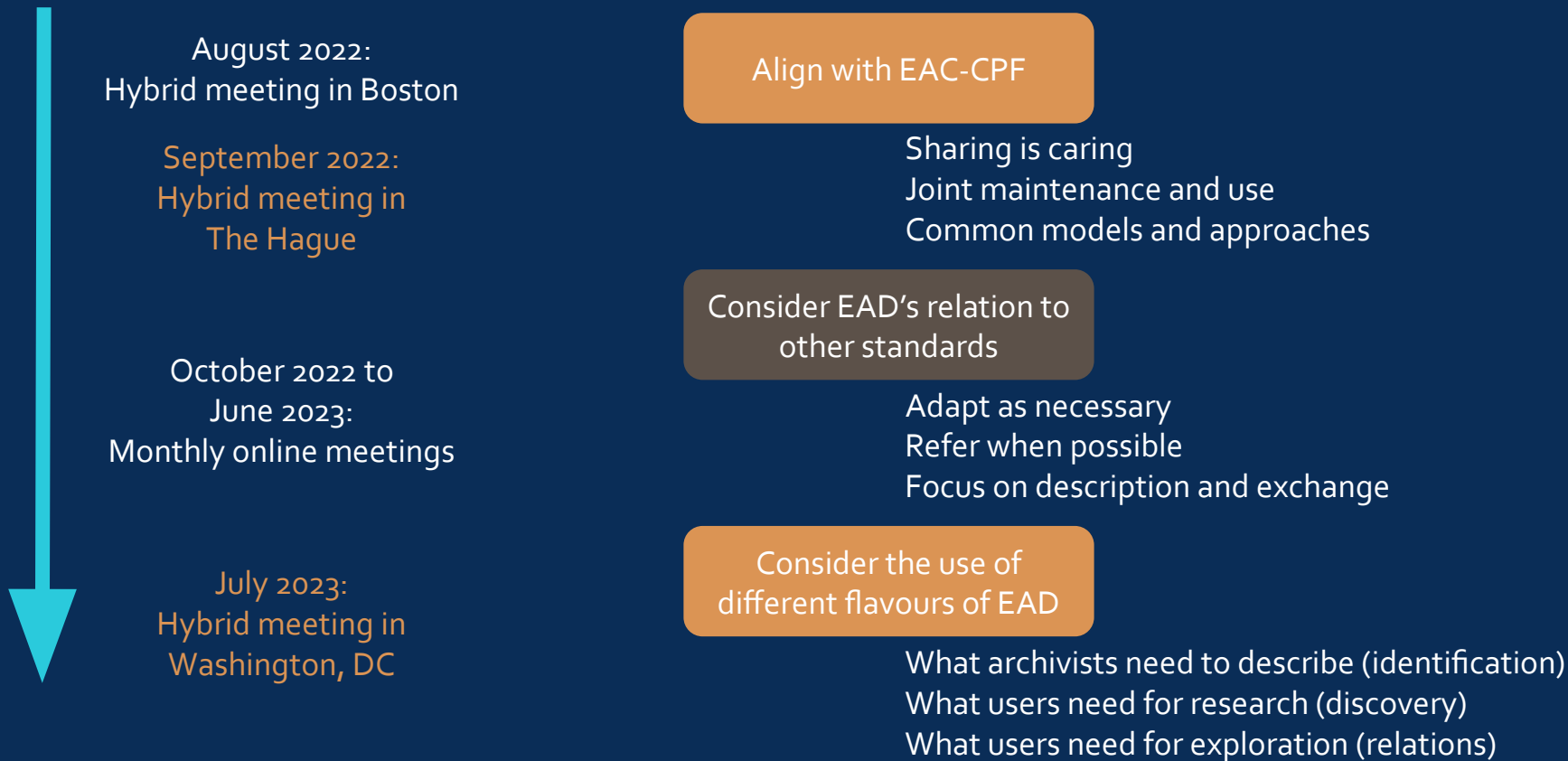https://github.com/SAA-SDT/TS-EAS-subteam-notes/blob/master/rolling-revision-cycle.md

Evaluate standards for potential major revision every five years following guidelines by SAA's Standards Committee
https://www2.archivists.org/governance/handbook/section7/groups/Standards/Development-and-Review

Major revision of EAD: General aspects

August 2022:
Hybrid meeting in Boston

September 2022:
Hybrid meeting in
The Hague

October 2022 to
June 2023:
Monthly online meetings

July 2023:
Hybrid meeting in
Washington, DC

Align with EAC-CPF

Sharing is caring
Joint maintenance and use
Common models and approaches

Consider EAD's relation to other standards

Adapt as necessary
Refer when possible
Focus on description and exchange

Consider the use of different flavours of EAD

What archivists need to describe (identification)
What users need for research (discovery)
What users need for exploration (relations)

EAD and Records in Contexts

RiC: the new ICA standard for describing archives

- For now, a draft standard, for describing archival records within the contexts of their origination and ongoing use
- When completed, RiC will have four complementary parts
  - **RiC-FAD**: Foundations of Archival Description
  - **RiC-CM**: Conceptual Model
  - **RiC-O**: Ontology
  - **RiC-AG**: Application Guidelines
- Author: International Council on Archives Expert Group on Archival Description (ICA EGAD)
  - Currently 23 members from 16 countries

Why RiC?

- Need to
    - **articulate the 4 existing standards** for the description of archives (ISAD(G), ISAAR(CPF), ISDF and ISDIAH) and get a **single standard** which will therefore replace them
    - **gain height and define what we are talking about** (for us as well as for neighbouring communities)
    - **take into account advances in archival theory and practice**
    - **take into account technological developments** and work in progress in other communities or by other groups
    - facilitate the **discovery, identification, selection, access, understanding and reuse** of archives and thus **improve the service to users**

Development timeline

- Late 2012/early 2013: ICA EGAD formed
- 2016: RiC-CM version 0.1 released for public comments
- 2017: RiC-O beta version released
- December 2019: RiC-O version 0.1 & preview version of RiC-CM version 0.2 released
- February 2021: RiC-O version 0.2 released
- July 2021: RiC-CM version 0.2 released for public comments
- January 2022: RiC-IAD version 0.2 released
- **October 2023: Version 1.0 of RiC-FAD, RiC-CM, and RiC-O to be released as an official recommendation of ICA**
- After October 2023: Begin drafting RiC-AG

EGAD is preparing RiC 1.0

- **RiC 1.0** will be the **first complete, official version** of RiC, therefore **an ICA recommendation**
  - The exchanges show that the first users of RiC and the interested communities await RiC 1.0 with a certain impatience
  - Moving from the state of draft to the state of official standard will allow to launch new projects
- RiC-CM and RiC-O 1.0 will be **released before** the ICA congress at Abu Dhabi (**October 2023**)
- Strong demand for Guidelines (RiC-AG); publication to follow

Roadmap for RiC-CM 1.0

- **Analysis and consideration of all comments received on RiC-CM 0.2**
165 comments from 14 authors, incl. 4 communities, 4 institutions, 1 private company
- No major modification, **therefore no questioning of the philosophy or the general balance of RiC-CM**, but:
    - a simplification of the model for Date entities
    - the revision of certain introductions and textual definitions in the specifications
    - the addition of certain attributes (e.g. Date Type, Rule Type, General description and Note - replacing Descriptive Note) or relations (e.g. a few relations involving Date entities)
    - the addition of examples and diagrams in significant quantity
- As appendices: a detailed list of the changes made, referring to each of the comments received

Roadmap for RiC-CM 1.0

- **Publication, in addition, of the text of all the comments received on RiC-CM 0.2** (probably anonymized), provided with an identifier and categorized

- **For each of the comments**:
    - **either a few words briefly specifying what has been done by EGAD to take the comment into account,** and an indication of the sections of RiC-CM in which the comment has been taken into account;
    - **or a text explaining why the comment was not taken into account**

After RiC 1.0

- EGAD will have to organize new presentation webinars, workshops and conferences → See you, first, at the ICA Abu Dhabi 2023 congress!

- It will also be necessary to translate RiC-CM and RiC-O documentation into the other two official languages of the ICA, which are French and Spanish

- RiC will evolve thereafter according to new feedback and expressions of user needs

- Continuing to work with other groups which develop related standards, like TS-EAS or the PREMIS editorial committee

- It is desirable that other projects also be launched, relating to the construction of common multilingual vocabularies at the supranational level

Main differences between RiC and existing ICA Standards

- Broadly, **RiC models the things to be described** rather than a particular descriptive product, such as a finding aid

- ISAD(G) implicitly modeled a descriptive product, the finding aid, and defined description rules

- ISAD(G)'s "unit of description" differentiated into RiC **Record Resources**

  - **Record Set**

  - **Record**

  - **Record Part**

- Distinguishing between the intellectual content of a Record Resource and the physical representation of that content: **Instantiation**
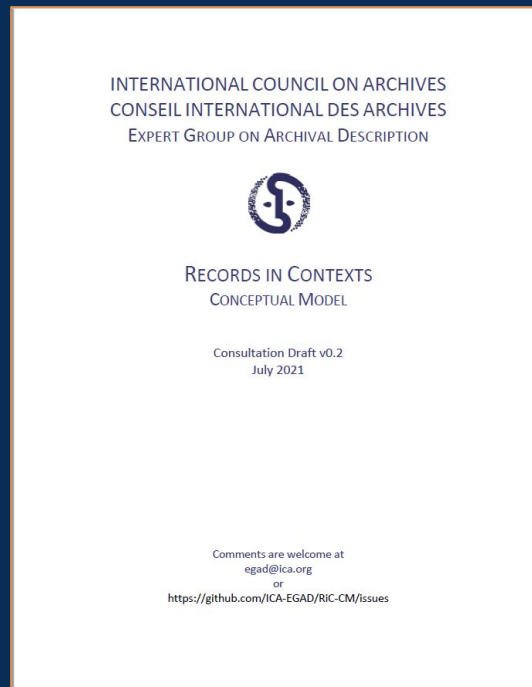
What is RiC in fact?

- Identifies the **entities of interest**, their **inherent characteristics**, and the **relations that may exist between them**
- When you use RiC, you consider and therefore represent the world of records like **an oriented graph of entities** (just like IFLA-LRM or CIDOC-CRM).
- You **move to a multidimensional, multicontextual, open, description.**
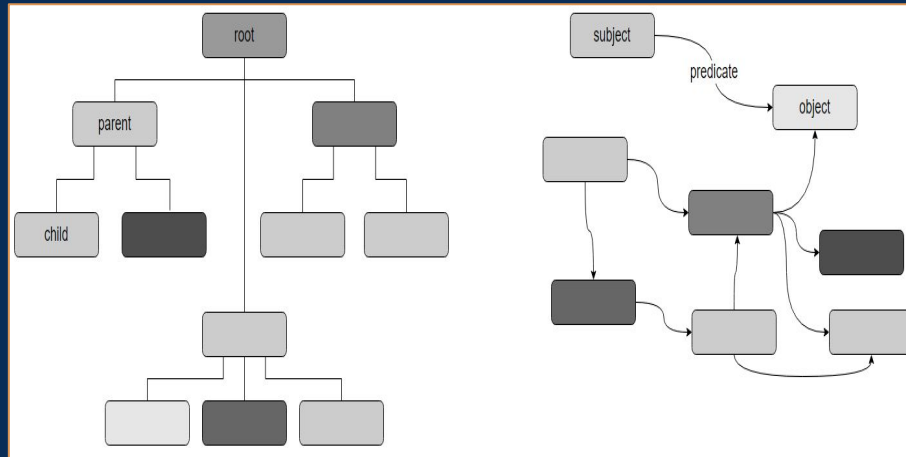
RiC-CM 0.2, in numbers

- **22 entities**, among them **the core/essential** ones are:
  - **Record Resource**:
    Record Set, Record, Record Part
  - **Instantiation**
  - **Agent**:
    Person, Group (Corporate Body, Family), Position, Mechanism
  - **Activity**
- **41 attributes**
- **78 relations**

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON ARCHIVES
CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES ARCHIVES
EXPERT GROUP ON ARCHIVAL DESCRIPTION

RECORDS IN CONTEXTS
CONCEPTUAL MODEL

Consultation Draft v0.2
July 2021

Comments are welcome at
egad@ica.org
or
https://github.com/ICA-EGAD/RiC-CM/issues

Record Resource

- **An information object produced or acquired and retained by an agent in the course of activity.** (probable definition in RiC-CM 1.0)
- RiC-CM 0.1 moved on from ISAD(G)'s *unit of description* stating that there were 3 different kinds of record entity – this still holds, Record Component becoming *Record Part*
- To emphasis that they are nonetheless similar kinds of thing, v0.2 introduced *Record Resource,* which is conceptually comparable to *unit of description*, and thus has 3 sub-entities
- This can facilitate the "switch to RiC" in the case of metadata of which one does not know exactly what they describe

RiC-E02
Record Resource

RiC-E03
Record Set

RiC-E04
Record

RiC-E05
Record Part
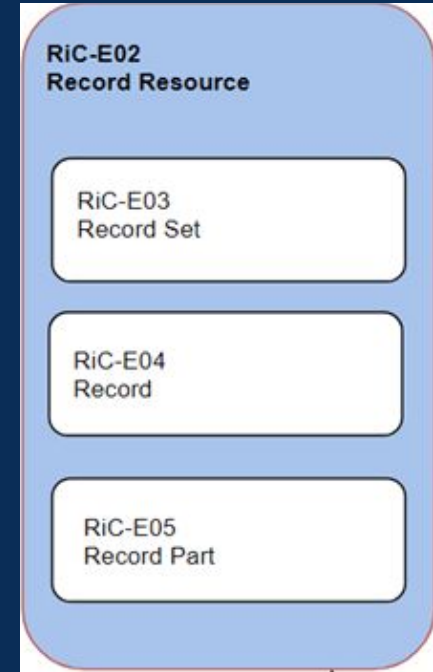
The sub-entities of Record Resource

Record:

- Discrete information content inscribed by an agent or agents by any method on any carrier in any persistent, recoverable form in the course of life or work activity (probable definition in RiC-CM 1.0)

- Equates to ISAD(G)'s item (and ISO 23081-2 Item)

- Always documents or is evidence of an *activity* undertaken by an *agent*

- Must be inscribed/instantiated at least once

Record Part:

- Part of a record with discrete information content that contributes to the record's physical or intellectual completeness (probable definition in RiC-CM 1.0)

- Not always necessary or useful to describe record parts, but may well be, e.g. for born digital records

- Whether a *record resource* described is a *record* or *record part is* a matter of perspective (in other words they are not disjoint conceptually speaking)

RiC-E02
Record Resource

RiC-E03
Record Set

RiC-E04
Record

RiC-E05
Record Part
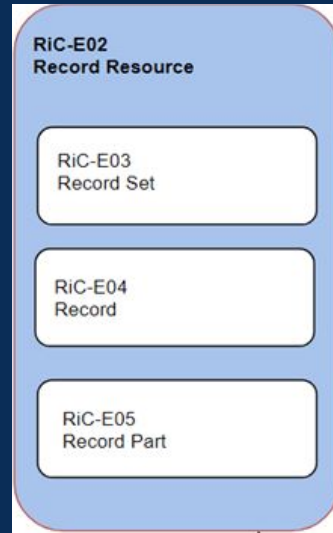
The sub-entities of Record Resource

Record Set:

- Definition: **One or more records that are grouped together by an agent or agents based on the records sharing one or more attributes or relations (like provenance, topic, date, place, etc.) to serve their own ends**

- Close to ISO 23081 Aggregation

- As a conceptual aggregation, may be physically inscribed but not necessarily so

- May hold other record sets in a hierarchy; so caters for traditional multi-level, provenance based, description at fonds or series level, and other types of collections

- Also allows records to be grouped in other ways by creators, managers, archivists and users. A **Record** or a **Record Set can therefore be included in different Record Sets, simultaneously or over time.**

RiC-E02
Record Resource

RiC-E03
Record Set

RiC-E04
Record

RiC-E05
Record Part
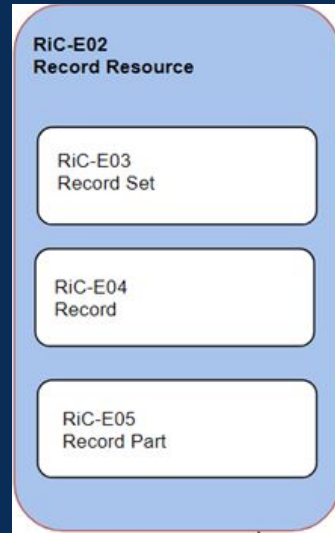
The Instantiation entity
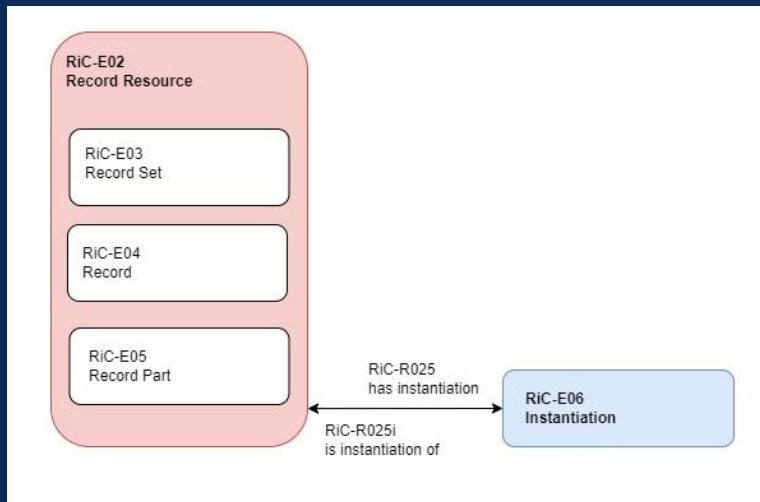
- Definition: **the inscription of information made by an *agent* on a carrier in any persistent, recoverable form as a means of communicating information through time and space**.

- Added in RiC-CM 0.2, in order to **provide a clear distinction between the physical and intellectual characteristics of records,** in other words between the message conveyed and its physical inscription(s)
- Close to PREMIS Representation
- Allows the description of the carrier (analogue or digital) on which the message is represented
- **A Record must have one, existing or past, instantiation; it can have many instantiations**
- An Instantiation may be derived from another Instantiation. In certain cases or according to certain perspectives, the result of the derivation will rather be considered as a Record.

Example: one Record, several Instantiations

http://data.alegoria-project.fr/id/anf/lapie/instantiation/058220-c2vzyex71lzy-1rdwcqmm05btq-i3
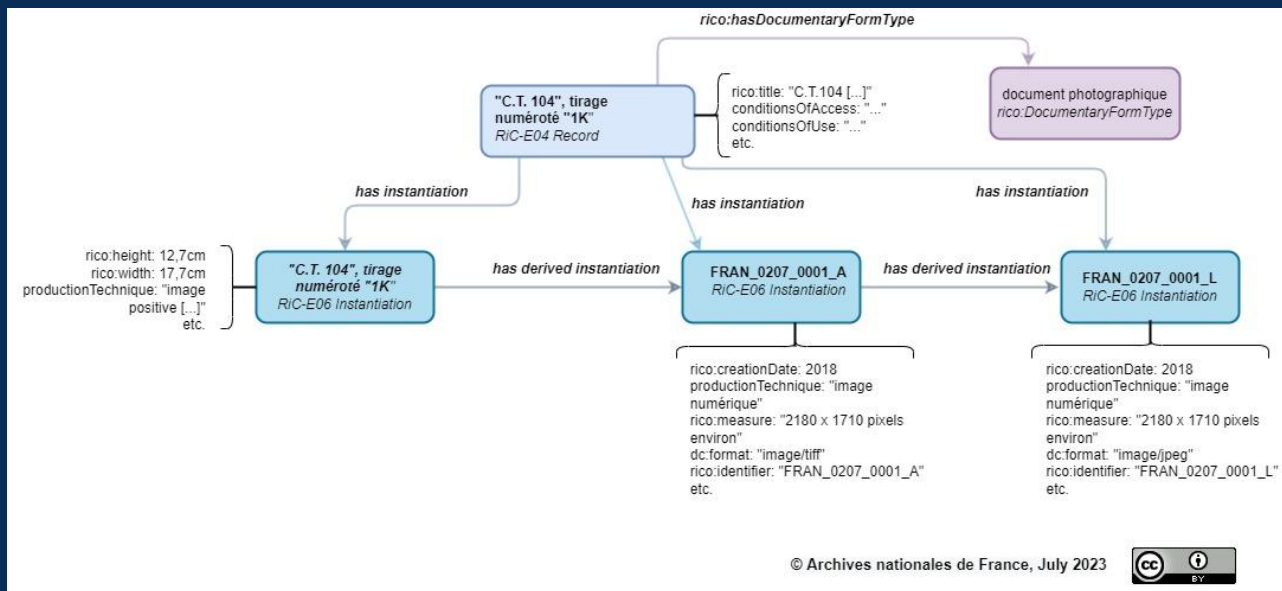
See also a more complex diagram here, where the digitization event is described

Relations in RiC-CM: global overview

- Describe possible connections between entities
- Classic in an entity-relationship model
- Need to have in this reference model **a coherent and rich arsenal of relationships to allow the** construction of graphs that accurately represent the connections between record resources and their context entities throughout their life cycle (from their creation to the events that affect them in the institution which is responsible for preserving them for the long term and communicating them to users)
- The previous standards were really not enough
- A lot of work has been done; good level of maturity
- Currently, various implementations, that enabled to test the relations (in particular at the Archives nationales de France)

Relations in RiC-CM: global overview

- **No claim to completeness**:
  - RiC focuses on relations that are of archival and user significance
  - It is impossible to anticipate all changes in contexts and needs
- Why record relations? A few very simple examples which show their interest from the user's point of view when searching for archives:
  - When 2 agents *work together*, e.g. intervene in the investigation of the same case, they exchange documents or data
  - When a person *succeeds* another in the exercise of an activity, his predecessor is likely to send him documents and data which he will then enrich or complete
  - If a document *is a copy of* another document, it conveys the same informational message as the first and also testifies to its dissemination.
  - If a digital instantiation *is derived from* a first instantiation, it is likely to replace the first for the end user

RiC early implementations

- **RiC-CM and RiC-O 0.2 are mature enough to be used, and are already used**
- **Short, not exhaustive list, of current implementations, most of them using RiC-O**
    - Archives nationales of France:
        - the PIAAF proof of concept
        - RiC-O Converter software (v 2.0 to be released soon; see also https://doi.org/10.1145/3583592)
        - ALEGORIA project (SPARQL endpoint and metadata sets)
        - Authority data and vocabularies
        - Large scale visual query demonstrator and its dataset
    - The French aggregator, FranceArchives (all its metadata are being converted to RDF/RiC-O data)

RiC early implementations

- ○ In the Netherlands: Amsterdam City Archives to move their metadata infrastructure to a RiC-O one
- ○ In Switzerland:

      - the [Memobase](#) portal for audiovisual records;

      - **a tool under development by Docuteam** (suite of software based on OAIS Reference Model and RiC; expected to be released fall 2023)
- ○ In Italy: a DH project about the fonds of an architect (see https://doi.org/10.1145/3606706)

RiC early implementations

- Other ongoing projects, not available yet online:
  - National Archives of Singapore: ongoing poc
  - National Archives of Norway: ongoing poc
  - National Archives of Sweden: ongoing poc
  - In France, the OFF-Site project, whose database model is based on RiC-CM

- **These early implementations will show the way and help move to RiC**
  - They will blaze paths that will make it easier for those that follow
  - They already provide feedback for further refining RiC-CM and RiC-O, and developing the RiC-AG

If you want be involved or keep up to date

- **You can now join the new 'Records in Contexts users' group on Google groups: https://groups.google.com/g/Records_in_Contexts_users**
  - Conversations are public, but to participate in a conversation you must subscribe to the group.
- On RiC-O in particular, check out the tickets and files in the public repository on GitHub:
  - https://github.com/ICA-EGAD/RiC-O (development ongoing in a specific branch)
- At the ICA Abu Dhabi Congress (October 2023), there will be a panel discussion on RiC-FAD, RiC-CM and RiC-O 1.0, a workshop on describing hybrid archives with RiC, plus short presentations of several projects that use RiC (see the programme)
- There will also be **an international study day organized by EGAD, on the first RiC implementations**, at the Archives nationales de France, **on November 15 2023 (hybrid and recorded event)**

Main resources about the current version 0.2

In English:
- **Presentation of about 90 min on RiC, recorded in September 2022** for the ICA Rome 2022 conference
- Public repository of RiC-O on GitHub (with examples and diagrams)
- RiC-O website (includes a page about the projects using RiC-O; to be updated soon)
- Article on RiC-O (in the proceedings of the *Linked Archives 2021* workshop)
- Thesis by Merel Geerlings (Amsterdam City Archives) (september 2021, Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences)

In French:
- An article (about 25 Word pages) on RiC, what is on stake and what it changes (July 2021)
- Webinars dated autumn 2021: slides and video recordings, for the French concerned communities (and any French speaking person) (duration about 5 h).
- See also the presentations made in Lausanne (Switzerland) in December 2022)

Requirements from RiC perspective

- Idea: provide archival descriptions = metadata as Linked (Open) Data
  - Add URIs to elements where feasible
  - Enable persistent identifier
  - Introduce instantiations

Requirements from RiC perspective

- Idea: provide archival descriptions = metadata as Linked (Open) Data
  - Enable qualified relations to record resources, agents and other entity descriptions
  - Align names of elements and attributes

Requirements from RiC perspective

- EAD revision so far:
  - Good approach and discussions

Other topics of the EAD revision

Alignment with EAC-CPF 2.0

Shared elements and attributes

- What is named in the same way and what is meant to be use in the same way should be defined in the same way
  - Ease of learning
  - Ease of (joint) use
  - Ease of exchange
  - Ease of maintenance

camelCase spelling

- XML is case-sensitive
  - Same name means same spelling
  - Ease of reading (for the human eye)
  - Ease of understanding, especially for an international community

Alignment with EAC-CPF 2.0

\<control\>

- Shared section
  - Everything that is mandatory comes first (\<recordId\>, \<maintenanceAgency\>, \<maintenanceHistory\>)
  - More flexibility in using alternative value lists (more below)
  - Moved \<filedesc\> out of \<control\>

\<findAidDesc\>

- The new \<filedesc\>
  - Optional
  - Any possible representation (or instantiation) of the finding aid
  - Simpler content model reusing elements that are already used elsewhere within EAD
    - \<title\>, \<agent\>, \<date\>, \<place\>, \<citedRange\> and \<div\>

Alignment with EAC-CPF 2.0

Date and place encoding

- Revised encoding for dates and places
  - Trinity of <date>, <dateRange>, and <dateSet>
  - <dateRange>-s can either have <fromDate> or <toDate> or both
  - Inclusion of uncertain and approximate dates
  - Places can encoded with their name, role, and coordinates as well as be broken down in address and contact details

Adoption of new attributes

- Document-internal references
  - @conventionDeclarationReference, @maintenanceEventReference, @sourceReference
- Document-external references
  - <reference> and @href
- (Linked Data) Vocabularies
  - @valueURI, @vocabularySource, @vocabularySourceURI

The multiverse - links, references and relations

Controlled value lists

- E.g. @level or @daoType
  - EAS list of values removed from the schemas
  - Option within <control> to define if EAS list is used or if an extension or alternative to the EAS list is used
  - Ideally values from other standards and vocabularies
  - Declared in <conventionDeclaration>
  - If EAS list is used, Schematron can include this in validation processes
  - If other lists are used, TS-EAS is looking into providing recommendations on how to customise Schematron accordingly
  - EAS list of values will be made publicly available (including descriptions of each value and their use) and changes and additions can be suggested as part of the annual minor revision cycles

The multiverse - links, references and relations

(Linked Data)
Vocabularies

- ● E.g. with controlled access terms
  - ○ Existing option to mention the identifier (URI) for a specific term and the vocabulary from which this term is taken aligned with EAC-CPF 2.0
    - ■ @identifier/@authfilenumber becomes @valueURI to avoid confusion with @id
    - ■ @source becomes @vocabularySource to avoid confusion with the element <source>
  - ○ New option added to provide the URI for the vocabulary as a whole (@vocabularySourceURI)
  - ○ Option to define the role of the related entity towards the described materials is extended
    - ■ @relator becomes <targetRole> to enable multilinguality and to provide an option to also give a URI for the role term

The multiverse - links, references and relations

<relations>

- Strengthen the concept of relations
  - Also with regard to EAD's relation to RiC
- Move towards a more modular approach of archival description
  - Make use of descriptions of related entities available elsewhere by relating to them
  - Avoid duplication of description efforts
  - Create connections between archival descriptions with descriptions from other domains
- Review positioning of <relations> within EAD
- Review elements

The multiverse - links, references and relations

<relations>

- Review elements inherently representing relations
  - <origination> and <repository>
  - <relatedMaterial>, <separatedMaterial>, and <otherFindAid>
  -
  - Sub-elements of <controlAccess> / <index>
  - <dao>, <altFormAvail>, <originalsLoc>
  - etc.

Different flavours of EAD

- No deprecated and undeprecated version
  - What is removed, is removed

"Core EAD"
- Should still include (most of) the new features
- Might not include full set of elements
- Might focus on plain text

"Extended EAD"
- Full version
- Easy pathway to "upgrade" from "core EAD" if wanted

Support archives moving forwards

- Aim at collaborations to facilitate uptake
  - Software providers who create exports in EAD
  - Aggregators who work with EAD (and other data formats) from a variety of sources
- Provide transformation/migration paths to help in upgrading
- Provide additional documentation and examples to illustrate recommended usage and possible use cases
- Work together with educators to foster understanding of the new version and its functionalities

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Thank you very much for your participation!

Watch out for a call for comments in Q4/2023
on the first draft of EAD 4.0 (schema)